While we really don’t want to tell you what you can or can’t do with the multi-purpose Instigator, consider “urban assault vehicle”, “jumper”, “freerider”, “dual-slalom”, or “wall art.” We haven’t just slapped a bunch of gussets on a mountain bike to achieve the desired aesthetic. We have tried to correct some of the glaring mistakes found in other bikes of this genre, incorporating some standard and unique Surly features at the same time. We’re sure the result of our efforts will have you riding “over your head” in no time.

**What’s so special about the Instigator?**

100% Surly 4130 double-butted cro-moly steel construction
Know anything about vinyl LPs? Manufactured correctly, they produce a higher-quality analog sound, cost more to produce that CDs, yet typically cost less to buy. Likewise, nowadays, it costs more to make a production bike out of cro-moly steel than it does out of name-brand aluminum. We do it not because we dislike aluminum (or CDs), but because we strongly believe in steel’s superior physical and spiritual properties, not to mention the advantages its use lends to this particular design. Technical spew aside, you’ll find the Instigator extremely stiff yet comfortable, and of the same extreme strength you’ll find in BMX jumping bikes, 99% of which are still made out of steel. Strangely, we’re one of the only companies making a bike like this out of the good stuff. And yes, that’s a 1.5” diameter double-butted down tube!

Thick CNC-machined 4130 disk-compatible dropouts
Each one of these beauties is hogged out of a giant block of 4130 cro-moly billet. They are very thick, very strong and very flex-free, as any dropout securing a wheel and brake caliper down 11 flights of stairs should be. Should you choose the disk brake option, the cantilever studs can be removed to save 22 grams and give that sexy, finished look.

ICGS (International Chain Guide Standard) mounts
Chainguide toughguys Mr.Dirt™ and MRP™ got their heads together to develop a chainguide mounting standard that is simple, straightforward, and keeps everything in place without weird little set screws or drilling holes in down tubes. How could we not get behind a great idea whose time has come? It’s there if you need it, doesn’t interfere with front derailleur positioning (if you go that route) and it works great. You’re ahead of this game on an Instigator.

Junk Saver™ top tube
If you simply adjust conventional rigid mountain bike geometry to ride well with 100-130mm suspension forks, the front end of the bike is raised so high that when you get a size that fits you, you have little or no standover clearance. We like as much clearance as possible on a bike like this, but not at the expense of proper fit. With the Instigator’s Junk Saver top tube design, you get the best of all worlds - the travel, the right fit, and the clearance you need to clean tricky maneuvers and keep those “important packages” safe.

FFF™ chainstays
It’s awfully silly that a rigid bike with big-travel up front wouldn’t provide clearance for a big shock-absorbing tire out back. Not everyone wants to run giant tires but the option should always be yours, especially on a bike like the Instigator. Custom-designed Fatties Fit Fine chainstays are standard equipment on all Surly bikes, and, in this case will fit the enormous 26x2.35” Tioga Factory DH™ with no problem, or even the Intense™ 26x2.7” on a 30mm rim. If you run disk brakes, 24x3.0” tires fit, providing the ultimate moto experience.

Gusseted and reinforced front end
Ahh, the ubiquitous gusseted front end. Ya gotta have it and it looks cool. Ours features an extra-thick headtube with machined-in reinforcing ring, a downtube gusset, and two beefy side plates to get the job done right. A 5” travel suspension fork is a pretty long lever.

It goes without saying that the Instigator frame isn’t light – 6.4lbs. for the 16” and 6.6lbs for the 18” size – but not bad for a bike like this. Expect complete bikes to weigh 27-40 lbs, depending on your component selection and particular need of beefiness.

**Instigator Specifications:**

**Tubing:** 100% Surly proprietary 4130 cro-moly steel. Main triangle double-butted. TIG welded

**Rear dropouts:** Proprietary Surly 4130 billet. Spaced 135mm

**Brake compatibility:** International Standard disk or Cantilever rim-type

**Braze-ons:** Removable cantilever bosses, dual water-bottle mounts, Down tube shift cable routing, tube guides for hydraulic hose or solid housing, ICGS Chainguide mount

**Seatpost diameter:** 29.4mm

**Seatpost clamp diameter:** 31.8mm (1-1/4”) Surly Constrictor included

**Headset:** 1-1/8” threadless

**Front derailleur size:** 31.8mm (1-1/4”) bottom pull

**Bottom bracket shell:** 73mm wide, threaded English 1.37x24t

**Chainring clearance:** 48t max

**Fork compatibility:** Geometry is designed around a 100 or 130mm suspension fork. Using shorter or longer forks will compromise intended ride characteristics, i.e. less BB clearance, faster or slower handling, etc.

**Weight:** 18” = 6.61 lbs. (3.0 kg)
Get a pen and write down the serial number of your Surly immediately. The number is stamped into the bottom of the bottom bracket shell. Having this number is imperative if your bike ever gets stolen or if you ever have questions about your frame... we are constantly improving our products and sometimes the serial number is the only way to tell one generation of product from another.

**LIMITED WARRANTY:**
Surly frames and forks are guaranteed to be free from manufacturing defects for three years from the original date of purchase. What this means is that if we screwed up something in the manufacturing process that resulted in the premature failure of the product, we’ll fix or replace it at our discretion. This warranty is for the original buyer of the product and is not transferable. It should go without saying that we won’t even consider your warranty problem without a dated proof-of-purchase.

What this warranty doesn’t cover is damage resulting from any sort of riding other than “normal” riding, and the inevitable wear and tear resulting from “normal” use. Surly products are built to be used vigorously and we wouldn’t expect you to treat them gently, but we can’t be responsible for the inherent danger to body and property you face each time you throw your leg over the top tube. We’re hip to the “just riding along” phenomenon - and frankly, we’re just not having it.

Sorry, the paintjob isn’t covered, nor is any damage that happens to you or your other components as a result of any failure of one of our products. Lastly, if you modify or neglect our products we can’t be responsible for them or what might happen to you while you’re using them. We hate to spell it out, but hey, it’s the 21st Century. We’re known to back up our products, but we’ve seen too many peoples’ parts come back to us that were not defective and did not meet our warranty guidelines. Save your self some time and shipping money by reading this and making a decision for yourself. If you and your shop think your Surly product is indeed worthy of a warranty inspection, please return the product to the original place of purchase, accompanied by a sales receipt. In the unlikely event that this is not possible, call or email us and we’ll do our best to get you riding again.

**OTHER PRODUCTS:**
Give us a call for a free catalog or visit our website to check out all our stuff, you won’t be disappointed.

**CONTACT US:** By all means, give us your feedback!

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